

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: ELAB PINT IT
SUBJECT: MILAN TRADE UNION OPPOSITON TO NATIONAL POLICY POSITION

1. SCRAPPY MILAN CISL PROVINCIAL SECRETARY MARIO COLOMBO, SPEAKING AT FEB 28 MILAN CONSULAR CORPS LUNCHEON, SAID MILAN CISL IN FUNDAMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH MAIN THRUST OF UNION DOCUMENT APPROVED FEB 14 IN ROME BY DELEGATES OF THREE ITALIAN UNIONS. BUT CISL HERE TOOK ISSUE WITH CERTAIN POINTS.

2. HIS PEOPLE HAD NO TROUBLE, SAID COLOMBO, WITH PRINCIPLE OF LABOR MOBILITY, NEED TO CONTAIN WAGE CLAIMS, OR REQUEST THAT WAGE INCREASES NEGOTIATED INTO TRIENNIAL CONTACTS BE STRETCHED OUT OVER TIME.

3. MILAN CISL HAD PARTED COMPANY WITH GREAT MAJORITY OF DELEGATES, HOWEVER, ON OTHER POINTS. REFUSAL OF MAJORITY (SOME 1400 DELEGATES OUT OF 1500 PLUS) TO ACCEPT IS AMENDMENTS CAUSED MILAN CISL TO ABSTAIN IN FINAL VOTE, BUT ONLY TO UNDERSCORE OBJECTION TO NATIONAL HAND IN ASSURING THAT LOCAL NEGOTIATIONS RESPECTED AGREED GUIDELINES. COLOMBO ELABORATED ON TWO MOST IMPORTANT AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT.

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4. FIRST BONE OF CONTENTION INVOLVED LABOR MOBILITY. MILAN CISL COULD NOT AGREE TO HIATUS BETWEEN JOBS IF UNEMPLOYMENT PAYMENTS LIMITED TO 12 MONTH PERIOD. HERE, MILAN INSISTANCE ON INDEFINITE TERM FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS ACCEPTED BY CONVENTION. SECONDLY, ALTHOUGH GENERAL AGREEMENT TO CONTAIN WAGE INCREASES

FINE, EACH LABOR CATEGORY OUGHT TO BE FREE TO NEGOTITE WITH MANAGEMENT WITHOUT HAVING CEILING IMPOSED BY UNIONS' NATIONAL LEVEL. AND ON THIS ISSUE, MILAN LOST OVERWHELMINGLY LEADING TO ABSTENTION BY OVER 100 DELEGATES INCLUDING COLOMBO.

5. COLOMBO NAMED OTHER ITEMS ON WHICH MILAN CISL HAD OFFERED AMENDMENTS BUT HE CLEARLY CONSIDERED THEM OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE. THEY INCLUDED MOVES TO EARMARK PART OF AGREED-UPON 24 BILLION LIRE BUDGET DEFICIT FOR INVESTMENTS AS WELL AS TO LIMIT PRICE RISES IN PUBLIC UTILITIES AND SERVICES.

6. COLOMBO IN QUESTION PERIOD REFUSED TO BE DRAWN INTO ADMISSION THAT CISL TAKING MORE EXTREME LINE THESE DAYS THAN CGIL. SOMETIMES, HE SAID, CISL TAKES HARDER LINE, SOMETIMES NOT. WHAT DIFFERENTIATED TWO UNIONS WAS THAT CGIL WAS MARCHING TO PCI DRUM BEAT - AND ONE WASN'T ALWAYS SURE OF THAT PARTY'S INTENTIONS - WHILE CISL WAS ADDRESSING PROBLEM ON AD HOC BASIS AND WITH WORKERS' BEST INTERESTS IN MIND.

7. WHAT ABOUT PCI IN GOVERNMENT? WITHOUT GETTING MORE SPECIFIC, COLOMBO CONTENDED SITUATION WAS SUCH THAT COUNTRY COULD AFFORD TO HAVE NEITHER DC NOR PCI IN OPPOSITION. FORMER CONTROLLED ITALY'S VITAL INSTITUTIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIKE LOCAL AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, BANKS. LATTER DOMINATED CIVIL SOCIETY- THE ARTS, ORGANIZED LABOR, COOPERATIVES, AND SIMILAR NON-GOVERNMENT BODIES.

8. COMMENT: COLOMBO'S EXPLANATION FOR MILAN ABSTENTION IN VOTE ON CGIL-CISL-UIL POLICY WAS FIRST TIME WE HAD HEARD MOTIVE. WE HAD ASSUMED THAT MILAN DELEGATES OPPOSED INCREASED LABOR MOBILITY PLANK BUT APPARENTLY THIS NOT THE CASE. RATHER, ISSUE IS USUAL ONE OF LOCAL AUTONOMY VERSUS NATIONAL DIRECTION. IN THIS CASE, NATIONAL PRESSURE PROBABLY NECESSARY TO PUSH LOCALS INTO MORE FLEXIBLE POSTURE ON MOBILITY AND WAGE GUIDE-LINE LIMITS.FINA

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